Variable description accompanying data used in "Bosker et al. – From Baghdad to London"

This file contains brief descriptions of all variables included in the data file. For a complete description of all variables (more thorough definitions, sources etc.) see the Data Appendix accompanying our paper.

indicator
numeric indicator unique to each city

city
name of the city (sometimes containing different names used in different time periods)

country
country (defined on 1990 boundaries) a city is located in

year
century

arab_peninsula
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located on the Arabian Peninsula

longitude
longitude-coordinate

latitude
latitude-coordinate

citypop_le10
city population in 1000s, only reported when the city has at least 10,000 inhabitants

citypop_le5
city population in 1000s, only reported when the city has at least 5,000 inhabitants

sea
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located at sea

river
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located at a river

hub_3rr
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located on a crossing of at least two roman roads

rom_road_nohub
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located on a roman road (and is not a hub)

caravan_hub
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located on a crossing of at least two caravan routes

caravan_nohub
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located on a caravan route (and is not a caravan hub)

elevation_m
elevation above sea level in meters

rugg10
standard deviation of the elevation of the terrain within a 10km radius in meters

bishop
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is the seat of a bishop

archbishop
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is the seat of an archbishop

capital
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is a capital city

university
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city hosts a university

muslim
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city falls under muslim rule

me_na
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located in the Middle East or North Africa (including Turkey)

muslim_holy_city
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is one of the four holiest cities in Islam (Jerusalem, Damascus, Mecca or Medina)

plundered
dummy variable indicating the number of times a city was plundered *in the previous century*

soilquality
dummy variable indicating the soil quality of the fields surrounding a city

commune
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city has a form of self-governance

ecozones
dummy variable indicating in which ecozone a city is located

free_prince_dls
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city is located in a country that is classified as "free" (=1) or "prince" (=0) according to DeLong and Shleifer (1993)

total_pop_country
total population of the (1990) country the city belongs to

Dmedina
distance to Medina in kms

Dmecca
distance to Mecca in kms

Drome
distance to Rome in kms

Djerusalem
distance to Jerusalem in kms

Dbyzantium
distance to Byzantium (Constantinople) in kms

d_nearest_muslim
distance to the nearest city falling under Muslim rule

d_nearest_christian
distance to the nearest city falling under Christian rule

fup
a city's "foreign urban potential" – see our paper for its full definition

musfup
a city's "Muslim foreign urban potential" – see our paper for its full definition

chrfup
a city's "Christian foreign urban potential" – see our paper for its full definition

musfup_devries
a city's "Muslim foreign urban potential" taking account of differences in transportation
mode following De Vries (1984) – see our paper for its full definition

chrfup_devries
a city's "Christian foreign urban potential" taking account of differences in transportation
mode following De Vries (1984) – see our paper for its full definition

distance_nearest_muslim_le10
distance to the nearest city with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule

distance_nearest_christian_le101
distance to the nearest city with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule

nrcities_le10_0_20
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 0 – 20km range

citypop_le10_0_20
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 0 – 20km
range

nrcities_le10_20_50
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 20 – 50km range

citypop_le10_20_50
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 20 – 50km
range

nrcities_le10_50_100
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 50 – 100km range

citypop_le10_50_100
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants located within a 50 – 100km range

size_nearest_le10_mus
population of the nearest city with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule

size_nearest_le10_chr
population of the nearest city with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule

nrcities_le10_0_20_mus
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 0 – 20km range

citypop_le10_0_20_mus
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 0 – 20km range

nrcities_le10_0_20_chr
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 0 – 20km range

citypop_le10_0_20_chr
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 0 – 20km range

nrcities_le10_20_50_mus
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 20 – 50km range

citypop_le10_20_50_mus
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 20 – 50km range

nrcities_le10_20_50_chr
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 20 – 50km range

citypop_le10_20_50_chr
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 20 – 50km range

nrcities_le10_50_100_mus
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 50 – 100km range

citypop_le10_50_100_mus
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Muslim rule located within a 50 – 100km range

nrcities_le10_50_100_chr
number of cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 50 – 100km range

citypop_le10_50_100_chr
total population of all cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants falling under Christian rule located within a 50 – 100km range

parl_act
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city falls under an active parliament

madrassa01
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city hosts a madrassa

D_largestate
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city falls under the rule of a large state (see paper for its definition)

granadaEmirate
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city falls under the Emirate of Granada

ottoman
dummy variable indicating whether or not a city falls under Ottoman rule